

which it should be easy to debate. I would ask hon. members on both sides to be kind enough to cooperate with the Speaker.

Mr. ROWE: Well, Mr. Speaker, I have been endeavouring to emphasize to the house the fact that the public have their eyes on the government at the present time. However, I am not going to give all the reasons why, because I would be restricted in giving even a few of them. But I know I am in order when I say that if we follow the procedure that is now to be adopted, many of these grievances cannot be aired before parliament. If I am to resume my seat I shall go back and tell my people that no longer can we proceed with the debate on the speech from the throne as we have done in the past, and that the farmers cannot have the members who represent them in parliament air their grievances; that they must air them in the garages and barber shops, and that the business people must air theirs in the offices of their executives. I did not come here for that purpose. I could be employed in other places. No hon. member came here for that purpose. We did not accept an increased indemnity to do less in this house.

If we are to adopt the procedure suggested, it will stifle, postpone and make ineffective our arguments in dealing with the people's grievances. If that is permitted to come about, then this parliament will be reverting to a hollow mockery. I shall not say more, but I shall leave it to you, Mr. Speaker, as an old parliamentarian, and to those hon. members who so glibly heckle me today, those who sit behind the Prime Minister, and have done so for the last quarter of a century. I ask the Prime Minister what he would do if he were sitting here today. We all know what stand he would take. I am going to resume my seat—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROWE: If I have not left any impression on you, Mr. Speaker, I have left one on some hon. members. I urge the government to turn from these practices before it is too late. Let us restore to this house the freedom necessary to maintain our democratic form of government. It is the duty of this parliament to set this nation free once more.

Mr. GIBSON (Hamilton West): What are you reading from?

Mr. ROWE: Not from your notes, anyway. There are those who would like to put us in a strait-jacket. They would like to ration our scarcity and misery in this country.

I conclude with this. I urge upon the government that they reconsider the motion and

let us proceed in the usual way with the debate on the speech from the throne. I challenge the Prime Minister to tell me of any instance in which we have had a spectacle such as this—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Hear, hear.

Mr. ROWE: When the Hon. Mr. Bennett came into power he asked that the debate be carried on for only one day to meet an emergency, and the present Prime Minister agreed to it. Again in 1932 when the emergency trade agreements were dealt with the same thing happened. These are the only instances I know of in my long experience in the house. There was no other power to meet them. The agreements were tabled in all the commonwealth nations on the same day, and as the Prime Minister will recall, Mr. Bennett asked, in view of the fact that the other members of the British commonwealth were tabling the imperial trade agreements, that they be tabled in this parliament at the same time. This is the only instance since confederation in which debate on the speech from the throne has been stifled, and stifled evidently to avoid the grievances of the people being aired in the house.

Mr. G. RUSSELL BOUCHER (Carleton): Mr. Speaker, it is a bit difficult for a backbencher to know whether he is in order or not until he recapitulates what has taken place in the house since it opened on Friday last. As I recall it, on Friday last the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) rose in his place presumably to give notice of a motion that he would move later. He asked for the unanimous consent of the house to move the motion there and then. Shortly after that he took his seat and insisted that since he did not have unanimous consent he would not move the motion. The motion was withdrawn, but after the motion was withdrawn we were left with a notice of motion which was put on the order paper on Friday last. That notice of motion dealt with certain things; but it is not the notice of motion which is before the house now. The Prime Minister has changed it again. On Friday last the notice of motion given by the Prime Minister read as follows:

That the debate on the address in reply to the speech of His Excellency the Governor General to both houses of parliament be the first order of business on Monday, December 8th instant, and that this order be followed by government notices of motion and government orders, notwithstanding anything in standing order 15.